

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02571 280731Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 /079 W
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O R 271602Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6430
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSMSLONDON
R/ AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 1489
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2571

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT PARA 3 ADD LINES 4, 5, 6
E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJECT: OWEN/YOUNG TALKS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. OWEN, YOUNG AND ADVISERS MET WITH KNKOMO AND MUGABE
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FOR OVER TWO HOURS
THIS MORNING(AUGUST 27) AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSIONER. THERE FOLLOWS A SUMMARY OF THAT
MEETING. A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

2. OWEN OUTLINED SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS WITH EMPHASIS
ON THE UN ROLE AND STATUS OF FORCES DURING THE TRANSITION.
NKOMO AND MUGABE REGISTERED THEIR OPPOSITION TO DIRECT U.S.
INVOLVEMENT BUT DID NOT PRESS THE POINT. THEY ALSO
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OBJECTED TO THE POLICE HAVING THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD.
HOWEVER, THE MAJOR ISSUE OF DIFFERENCE CENTERED ON THE
RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY AND THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT FORCES FROM THE CEASEFIRE UNTIL INDEPENDENCE.

3. NKOMO AND MUGABE OBJECTED TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE

EXISTING RHODESIAN ARMY IN AS NKOMO PUT IT A "COMBATANT STATUS" OWEN AND YOUNG STRESSED THAT THE RHODESIAN ARMY COULD NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE SCENE OVERNIGHT. OWEN SAID THAT AFTER "TRANSITION DAY" THERE WOULD BE, IN EFFECT FOUR FORCES: THE LIBERATION FORCES, THE RHODESIAN FORCES, THE UN FORCE AND THE NEW ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORSE, WHICH WOULD, BY INDEPENDENCE, BE THE ONLY MILITARY FORCE IN THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER NKOMO AND MUGABE CONTINUED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING THE IDEA OF THE CONTINUATION IN ANY FORM OF SOME ELEMENTS OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS AMONG THEMSELVES AND MEET AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING.

4. MUGABE ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE PROPOSALS. OWEN DECLINED BUT SAID HE WOULD GIVE THE PF A COPY OF THE PROPOSALS BEFORE THEY WERE PUBLISHED.

5. OWEN/YOUNG TEAM THEN ADJOURNED TO STATE HOUSE FOR MEETING WITH FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. THERE TOO THE PRIMARY ISSUE OF DISCUSSION WAS THE STATUS OF FORCES DURING THE TRANSITION. THE FIRST SESSION, A TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE. FOLLOWING A LUNCH BREAK THE TALKS NOW LIMITED TO THE FRONTLINE LEADERS, OWEN AND YOUNG ARE CONTINUING.

6. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW THE OBJECTIVES OF NKOMO AND
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MUGABE TO THE ROLE OF THE POLICE ARE NOT SERIOUS. NONE OF THE FRONTLINE LEADERS PRESSED THIS AS AN ISSUE TODAY. IN FACT, NYERERE AND KAUNDA REPEATED THEIR ACCEPTANCE THAT THE POLICE FORCE WOULD REMAIN LARGELY INTACT. BOT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE FRONTLINE FOCUSED ON THE MAIN DIFFICULTY. THE STATUS OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY DURING THE TRANSITION. RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE LIES MORE IN HOW WE COME OUT OF THE MEETING WITH THE FRONTLINE THIS AFTERNOON THAN WITH THE OBJECTIONS REAISED BY NKOMO AND MUGABE.
LOW

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Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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